



Historic Wendover Airfield Water System and Sewer Replacement

Utah Legislature Request: \$ 500,000 One-time – Part of a \$2,800,000 Total Project

The proposed systems are a replacement of 75 year-old infrastructure installed during World War II. Waterline mains and laterals to critical fire hydrants will be replaced along with some of the crumbling sewer system manholes and vitreous clay pipe.

The airfield and operations have a significant importance to the town of Wendover and the state of Utah. Growth in the community and employment at the airfield has been positively impacted by the air service that utilizes the airfield and surrounding facilities. Just under 60,000 people per year are brought into the Wendover area by charter aircraft. Life Flight fixed wing and helicopters are dependent on the airfield for patient pickups/transfers and fueling. The Utah National Guard is a permanent tenant on the base and depends on the water system. The Air Force also has a permanent facility adjacent to the airfield that will also be a benefactor of the improved water/sewer system. The airfield helps inform visitors of the key role Utah has played (and continues to play) in national defense, and supports the Utah Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, as well as other military organizations, including Hill Aerospace Museum and Ft. Douglas.

Our Mission

The mission of the Historic Wendover Airfield, a 501(c)(3) organization, is to preserve the legacy of the heroic efforts of soldiers and citizens stationed at the Wendover Airfield during the extraordinary events of WWII. By portraying the accurate and captivating history of our war veterans, the general public learns about the patriotism and sacrifices of the citizens of our state and country during the war and beyond. This has become a significant visitor and military site for Utah and Tooele County as the restoration progresses. Wendover Airfield was included in the December 2014 KBYU production: Utah in WW II.

This Project

This infrastructure replacement project will insure that the airfield remains a viable and important entity in western Utah. The airfield provides a critical role as an emergency backup field for the F-35 aircraft from Hill Air Force Base that utilizes the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR). The old low-pressure water system that currently feeds the aircraft ramp is inadequate for a serious emergency and this will help create a safer environment. The Air Force installation east of the airport also plays an important role in radar tracking of test exercises on the UTTR. A new Air Force role at Wendover will be launching and controlling jet powered target aircraft for live fire tests. Having an upgraded water and sewer system for these facilities is important to their continued operation. Once installed, the life of these systems will be in excess of 50 years.

In the event of a major earthquake disaster in Salt Lake, FEMA plans to use Wendover as a distribution point and having a good sewer/water infrastructure will be a very positive improvement.

There is a strong partnership between Historic Wendover Airfield and the Tooele County/Wendover Airport. Not only have many buildings on the Historic Register been recovered and restored, but thousands of Utah and out of state visitors have been able to appreciate the importance of this Utah facility's role in the winning of World War II.

The water/sewer upgrades will also support the B-29 'Enola Gay' hangar which the legislature has helped preserve. With this restoration, several entities, including a planned major National Guard training exercise, have benefited. Having proper water pressure for the building and the aircraft ramp to the south will improve operations and safety.

The plans for the replacement of the water system and sewer upgrades have been in the works for several years. A partial system has been brought to the road just north of the Hangars and the planned upgrade will carry on that system.

The plans are to have the system engineering completed for the follow-on new portion and approved by the state water agencies. Following these activities, the system will be let out for bid and a competent contractor selected.

Both Historic Wendover Airfield personnel and Wendover Airport personnel will have regular progress meetings and, along with the inspectors, approve the installation and any changes that may be needed. When completed, the new system will be brought on line, giving water users and fire hydrants a high-pressure system. The current system only provides around 50 psi which is very inadequate for many purposes.

The outcome is easily measured by the improved water/sewer service to the buildings, ramp and facilities. Pressure and flow tests will absolutely show a huge improvement to the old and leaking water system. Sewer system elements will have modern concrete and PVC components and can be safely utilized and inspected. Higher pressure systems in the buildings will be obvious as will any firefighting exercises on the aircraft ramp.

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Important Benefits of the Historic Wendover Airfield

- Sustainable business model, income producing programs
- Preserve a unique treasure of Utah History
- Offer exciting and impactful hands-on experiences for visitors
- Strong partnership with Tooele County
- Bringing outside tourism to Utah and creating a "Western Gateway" to Utah
- Inform visitors of the key role Utah has played (and continues to play) in national defense
- Support current military trainings, in partnership with the Utah National Guard and the UTTR
- Support the Utah Wing of the Civil Air Patrol with their public service programs
- Beneficial partnerships with other military organizations, including Hill Aerospace Museum and Ft. Douglas
- Helping to reinvigorate the City of Wendover, providing economic growth and development
- Provide educational outreach across the State